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Chile Project (#\$199900030)

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U.S. Department of State

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172044Z OCT 85 AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3727

A SECTION 01 OF 04 SANTIAGO 07495

DECAPTIONED

12356: DECL: OADR

GS: CASC (WEISFEILER, BORIS), CI

Declassify: In Part X In Full BJECT: WELFARE-WHEREABOUTS: CASE OF BORIS WEISFETTER (S) 81

FS: (A) SANTIAGO 1080, (B) SANTIAGO 0901,

(C) SANTIAGO 0768

C - ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY. WEISFEILER CASE HAS TAKEN A MOST SERIOUS RN WITH STATEMENTS TO EMBASSY OFFICERS BY

THAT HE SUSPECTS CHILEAN POLICE LLED WEISFEILER BELIEVING HE WAS A SUBVERSIVE OR RORIST, REALIZED THEIR MISTAKE TOO LATE, AND THEN /ERED UP BY FAKING AN APPARENT DROWNING. STATEMENTS OTHER CHILEANS WHO SPOKE WITH POLICE ON DAY OF SAPPEARANCE PROVIDE CIRCUMSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS FORY, BUT NOT CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE. ACTION REQUESTED: BASSY RECOMMENDS THAT EITHER WE OR WEISFEILER'S TENDS, WHO WE KNOW ARE CONTINUING THEIR INVESTIGATION, RMALLY REQUEST CHILEAN JUDICIARY TO REOPEN THE INQUEST.

ON SEPTEMBER 2, CHARGE AND RSO PAID A COURTESY CALL GENERAL JUAN ALEGRIA, THE SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE

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ABINEROS. THEY LEFT AN AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE WEISFEILER E AND REQUESTED THAT ALEGRIA LOOK INTO IT. ALEGRIA URED CHARGE THAT HE WOULD, BUT TO DATE NO DIRECT PONSE FROM CARABINEROS HAS BEEN RECEIVED. SHORTLY REAFTER, A CONOFF RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM FORMIN ICIAL SUGGESTING THAT IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME EXCHANGE FURTHER DIPLOMATIC NOTES ON CASE SINCE

) NEW INFORMATION HAD BEEN DEVELOPED IN MONTHS. GOC FICIAL WAS TOLD THAT EMBASSY WAS NOT PREPARED TO DROP IS INQUIRY.

ON SEPTEMBER 17, THE MINISTRY SENT US ITS DIPLOMATIC)TE 21298, STATING THAT ON MAY 28 IT HAD REQUESTED THE ARABINEROS IN WRITING TO TAKE "MEASURES TENDING TO LARIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF COFESSOR WEISFEILER. IN THE REPLY TO THAT REQUEST, CEIVED WITH THE DATE OF JUNE 26, (THE CARABINEROS) FERRED TO ALL THE ACTIONS TAKEN UNTIL THAT DATE WITH ISUCCESSFUL RESULTS, GIVING COMPLETE DETAILS, AND)NCLUDING WITH A STATEMENT OF THEIR INTENTION TO ACTIVATE THE SEARCH FOR THE DISAPPEARED (PERSON)." THE INISTRY SAID IT HAD RECEIVED NOTHING FURTHER FROM THE RABINEROS SINCE JUNE, BUT PROMISED THAT IF IT DID E INFORMATION WOULD BE PROMPTLY COMMUNICATED TO THE !BASSY. THE NOTE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A JUDICIAL IVESTIGATION BY THE SECOND CRIMINAL COURT OF SAN CARLOS D BEEN OPENED INTO THE WEISFEILER DISAPPEARANCE IN NUARY, AND SUGGESTED THAT ANY NEW REQUESTS FOR VESTIGATION "AND OTHER POSSIBLE JUDICIAL STEPS THAT GHT BE DEEMED APPROPRIATE" SHOULD BE CHANNELED ROUGH THE COURT. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT THIS GGESTION GIVES US A CLEAR JUSTIFICATION FOR A DIRECT PROACH TO THE COURTS. HIDENDIA

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ON SEPTEMBER 24 THE CHARGE INSTRUCTED THE CONGEN (A) FIND OUT FROM THE EMBASSY'S CHILEAN ATTORNEY WHETHER E EMBASSY AND/OR FRIENDS OF WEISFEILER COULD MAKE QUESTS OR SUBMISSIONS TO THE SAN CARLOS COURT, AND) TO HAVE A CONSULAR OFFICER VISIT THE AREA OF THE SAPPEARANCE AND REINTERVIEW OLD AND POTENTIAL NEW TNESSES. THE FORMER INQUIRY IS IN PROCESS; THE LATTER S BEEN DONE.

ON OCTOBER 7, THE MINISTRY SENT US ITS NOTE 22506, PORTING THAT IT HAD RECEIVED A LETTER DATED OCTOBER 2 OM CARABINEROS (POSSIBLY STIMULATED BY THE CHARGE'S LL ON GENERAL ALEGRIA). THE CARABINEROS STATED THAT TWEEN JUNE 16 AND OCTOBER THEY HAD CARRIED OUT RIOUS MOUNTED AND FOOT PATROLS IN THE AREA "WITHOUT SITIVE RESULTS. MOREOVER, RESIDENTS, FISHERMEN, AND WITERS IN THE SECTOR HAVE BEEN CONSULTED, EQUALLY SUCCESSFULLY."

MEANWHILE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED



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RING VISITS TO THE AREA BY TWO SEPARATE CONOFFS, THE RST OCTOBER 2-4 AND THE OTHER OCTOBER 9-11.

ISFEILER ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO ON DECEMBER 25, 1984.

TRAVELED TO LOS ANGELES, ABOUT 360 MILES SOUTH OF NTIAGO, WHERE HE SPENT THE NIGHT OF THE 25TH AT E HOTEL MARISCAL ALCAZAR. CONOFF SPOKE WITH JOSE STILLO, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HOTEL. WEISFEILER ASKED STILLO FOR DETAILED INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN HIS PLAN BACKPACK ALONG THE MOUNTAINS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND

THE PERSON NAMED OF THE PERSON

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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SWF1 DENITE L SECTION 02 OF 04 SANTIAGO 07495

MDIS

12356: DECL: OADR

GS: CASC (WEISFEILER, BORIS), CI

BJECT: WELFARE-WHEREABOUTS: CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER

ILE. CASTILLO TOLD HIM HOW TO REACH LAKE LAJA WHICH WHERE WEISFEILER SAID HE WANTED TO START HIS JOURNEY THE MOUNTAINS. FROM THERE, HE WOULD TRAVEL NORTH TIL HE REACHED A POINT EAST OF CHILLAN AND THEN HEAD ST OUT OF THE MOUNTAINS TO SAN CARLOS, A TOWN NORTH CHILLAN, AND FROM THERE BACK TO SANTIAGO.

WEISFEILER WAS NEXT SEEN JANUARY 3 AT ABOUT 1500
VALLE HERMOSO, A SPOT 18 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE
SPLUENCE OF THE NUBLE AND LOS SAUCES RIVERS. THIS
CALITY IS ON A LOGICAL ROUTE BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND
KE LAJA. THERE HE MET A LOCAL FARMER/SHEPHERD NAMED
SCO LOPEZ, WHO INVITED HIM TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT HIS
3IN. ACCORDING TO LOPEZ, WEISFEILER OPENED HIS BACKCK AND DISPLAYED ITS CONTENTS. LOPEZ TOLD CONOFF HE
WHIKING BOOTS, HIGHLY DETAILED MAPS OF THE AREA,
SFEILER'S US PASSPORT, US DOLLAR BILLS AND HIS
COTTING. (THE PASSPORT AND MONEY WERE MISSING WHEN THE
KAPACK WAS LATER FOUND.) CHECO ALSO NOTED, WHEN



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CK, THAT A STRIPED SHIRT WAS MISSING.

THE NEXT MORNING (JANUARY 4) AT APPROXIMATELY 0900, ECO HELPED WEISFEILER CROSS TO THE NORTH BANK OF THE BLE RIVER BY HORSEBACK. HE NOTICED THAT WEISFEILER S EXPERIENCED IN CROSSING STRONG CURRENT RIVERS.

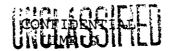
PEZ REMARKED TO BOTH VISITING CONOFFS THAT IT SEEMED RANGE TO HIM THAT WEISFEILER WOULD LATER DECIDE TO DSS THE LOS SAUCES RIVER WHERE ALLEGEDLY HE DID.

THAT SAME DAY (JANUARY 4), CHECO'S BROTHER, LUIS PEZ, WHO LIVES 18 KILOMETERS NORTH OF VALLE HERMOSO LOS MAYOS, ALSO SAW WEISFILER BRIEFLY WHEN THEY SSED EACH OTHER AT ABOUT 1600 ON THE TRAIL NEAR LUIS' JSE. HE HAD SEVERAL DAYS GROWTH OF BEARD, WAS ESSED IN MILITARY-LIKE OLIVE DRAB TROUSERS AND WAS RRYING A GREEN BACKPACK. LUIS CONTINUED DOWN THE AIL HERDING OXEN AND UPON ARRIVAL AT EL ROBLE, THE RABINERO STATION THAT LIES BETWEEN LOS MAYOS AND LLE HERMOSO, REPORTED THAT HE HAD SEEN A RANGE MAN WALKING NEAR HIS HOUSE EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON. SAID THAT THE CARABINEROS APPEARED TO BE ALARMED BY E FACT THAT SOMEONE WAS IN THE AREA WITHOUT THEIR OWLEDGE (VISITORS TO REMOTE RURAL AREAS ARE SUPPOSED REPORT TO THE LOCAL CARABINERO STATION UPON ENTERING E AREA). TWO, PERHAPS THREE, RODE OFF ON HORSEBACK SEARCH FOR THE STRANGER. (CONSULATE HAS THE NAMES THESE CARABINEROS.) WHEN CONOFF TALKED TO THE FICER WHO LED THE SEARCH PARTY FROM EL ROBLE, SHE WAS LD THAT THE CARABINEROS WERE EXTREMELY FRIGHTENED BY THE SSIBILITY THAT A "POLITICAL EXTREMIST" MIGHT HAVE SSED THE ARGENTINE BORDER INTO CHILE AND CONTINUED UNDETECTED TO THE TOWNS OF SAN FABIAN AND SAN CARLOS.

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OFFICER WAS AFRAID OF GETTING INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE H HIS SUPERIORS SHOULD HE ALLOW SUCH A THING TOPEN. HE AND HIS MEN ALLEGEDLY SEARCHED FOR THE NOWN MAN FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS OR UNTIL HITFALL, FINDING ONLY BOOT TRACKS LEADING TO A SPOT THE BANK OF THE LOS SAUCES ABOVE THE POINT WHERE IT NS THE NUBLE RIVER.





NITHIN A WEEK AFTER MEETING WEISFEILER, CHECO LOPEZ SSED BY EL ROBLE ON HIS WAY TO VISIT HIS PARENTS AT S MAYOS. WHEN HE STOPPED TO GREET THE CARABINEROS THE STATION, THEY TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD LET A LITICAL EXTREMIST FROM ARGENTINA PASS. CHECO ISISTED THAT THE MAN WAS AN AMERICAN AND NOT AN TREMIST. THE CARABINERO BERATED HIM FOR HAVING THAVED NEGLIGENTLY BY NOT INFORMING THEM IMMEDIATELY OF E PRESENCE OF A STRANGER IN THE AREA. ONLY WHEN ECO SHOWED THEM THE GIFTS WEISFEILER HAD GIVEN HIM CHOCOLATES, TEA, FISHING LURES) WERE THEY CONVINCED, CORDING TO CHECO, THAT THE MAN MUST HAVE BEEN AN IERICAN.

THE CHIEF OF THE CARABINERO STATION AT SAN CARLOS NTACTED CHECO A FEW DAYS LATER AFTER CONVERSING TH HIS COUNTERPART AT EL ROBLE. HE TOOK HIM TO THE OT WHERE ALLEGEDLY FOOTPRINTS HAD BEEN FOUND. CHECO D NOT SEE ANY.

. AFTER INTERVIEWS WITH CHECO AND LUIS LOPEZ, CONOFF LLED ON THE SAN FABIAN CARABINEROS. THE COMMANDING FICER, CAPITAN FERNANDEZ, SHOWED CONCERN THAT CONOFF

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ONFIDENTIAL SECTION 03 OF 04 SANTIAGO 07495

MDIS

12356: DECL: OADR

GS: CASC (WEISFEILER, BORIS), CI

BJECT: WELFARE-WHEREABOUTS: CASE OF BORIS WELSFEILER

D MANAGED TO PASS THE SAN FABIAN CARABINERO STATION THOUT BEING SIGHTED AND REPRIMANDED HER FOR NOT MAKING DWN HER PRESENCE IN SAN FABIAN. HE REQUIRED HER TO SIGN PAPER STATING THAT SHE HAD TRAVELED UP THE NUBLE RIVER





EYOND SAN FABIAN WITHOUT CARABINERO PERMISSION. WHEN ECOND CONOFF VISITED THIS TOWN ONE WEEK LATER, THE ARBINEROS LEARNED RAPIDLY OF HER PRESENCE, FOLLOWED IN TO CHECO LOPEZ' HOUSE AND WERE WAITING WHEN SHE EPARTED. CONOFF VISITED THE STATION TO OBTAIN THE AMES OF ALL CARABINEROS STATIONED AT EL ROBLE AT THE IME OF WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE. THEY AGREED TO NOTACT LUISLOPEZ BY RADIO FROM EL ROBLE AND ASK HIM MEET CONOFF LATER IN THE DAY. HE NEVER APPEARED.

. THAT EVENING, UPON RETURNING TO SAN FABIAN, CONOFF IS TOLD SHE COULD SPEAK WITH CAPITAN FERNANDEZ AND HIS ISISTANT, MAJOR IBACACHE, THE NEXT MORNING IN SAN CARLOS. ITHER OF THEM KEPT THE APPOINTMENT. MOREOVER, TWO KNOWN CARABINEROS APPEARED AT THE HOTEL IN CHILLAN SERE CONOFF WAS STAYING TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY HAD BEEN

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NT TO PROTECT THE EMBASSY VEHICLE. THEY WERE CONCERNED TH THAT NIGHT AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING WITH CONOFF'S INERARY, HER LENGTH OF STAY IN THE AREA AND WHEN SHE ANNED TO RETURN TO SANTIAGO. CONOFF HAD DISTINCT PRESSION THAT THE OFFICIALS WERE KEEPING CLOSE TRACK HER WHEREABOUTS FROM THE TIME SHE ARRIVED UNTIL THE ME SHE DEPARTED. THEY STATED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN FOR R SAFETY AND DISPLAYED ANXIETY OVER HER ACTIVITIES THE AREA.

BOTH CONOFFS SPOKE AT LENGTH WITH

HYPOTHESIZED TO BOTH CONOFFS
AT THE CARABINEROS MIGHT HAVE OVERREACTED UPON
ARING OF THE PRESENCE OF A STRANGER IN THE AREA AS
E PINOCHET GOVERNMENT IS, HE SAID, "PARANOID ABOUT
REIGN LEFTIST EXTREMISTS" OR LEFT-LEANING CHILEAN
ILES ENTERING CHILE VIA THE ISOLATED ARGENTINE
RDER. HE FELT THE CARABINEROS PROBABLY WENT IN HOT
RSUIT CONVINCED OF THEIR WORST FEAR, THE CLANDESTINE
TRY OF A POLITICAL EXTREMIST.
EPECTS THAT THEY MAY HAVE KILLED WEISFEILER ON THIS
SUMPTION, REALIZED THEIR MISTAKE TOO LATE, AND THEN
ED TO COVER UP THE FACT BY PLANTING HIS BACKPACK ON
E RIVER BANK DOWNSTREAM. HE SUSPECTS THAT WEISFEILER'S

CHAMPLE OF THE CONTROL OF THE CONTRO

DY WILL NOT BE FOUND IN THE RIVER, BUT RATHER HAS BEEN SPOSED OF SOMEWHERE IN THE ISOLATED MOUNTAIN REACHES OF NFIDENTIAL

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E CHILEAN/ARGENTINE BORDER.

ONE CONCRETE ACTION EMBASSY MIGHT ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHETHER WEISFEILER WAS CORDED AS CROSSING INTO ARGENTINA IN JANUARY OR BRUARY BY EITHER CHILEAN OR ARGENTINE IMMIGRATION. SUGGESTED THAT POLITICAL OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME ARE METIMES TAKEN INTO REMOTE AREAS OF ARGENTINA AND NE AWAY WITH THERE, IN THE PROCESS CREATING AN PARENT RECORD OF HAVING LEFT CHILEAN HANDS AND RISDICTION. EMBASSY WILL ASK CHILEAN IMMIGRATION TO KE A RECORD CHECK. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT TO K EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO DO THE SAME.

ON OUR MOST RECENT TRIP TO THE AREA, CONOFF ARNED OF A LAWYER IN CONCEPCION, OF A LAWYER IN CONCEPCION, WHO IS OKING INTO THE CASE. APPARENTLY, WEISFEILER'S LLEAGUES AND FRIENDS IN THE US ARE INITIATING YET OTHER PRIVATE INQUIRY INTO HIS DISAPPEARANCE. A WERSATION WITH THIS ATTORNEY PRODUCED NO NEW SIGHTS BUT REVEALED THAT WEISFEILER'S FRIENDS ARE NOT FISFIED WITH THE DROWNING THEORY IN LIGHT OF THE IT THAT HIS BODY HAS NEVER BEEN RECOVERED. SPARTMENT MAY RECALL THAT A CHILEAN PRIVATE DETECTIVE 3 HIRED BY THESE SAME PEOPLE SOME MONTHS AGO. HE PORTED HIS FINDINGS TO A MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR AT ?VARD, WHO IN TURN CONTACTED SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY'S FICE RELATIVE TO THE MATTER.)

CATEMENTS

7. COMMENT. IN ADDITION TO THESE EXTRAORDINARY THERE ARE ENOUGH

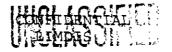
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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3730

ONFIDENTIAL SECTION 04 OF 04 SANTIAGO 07495

MDIS

1 12356: DECL: OADR

.GS: CASC (WEISFEILER, BORIS), CI

BJECT: WELFARE-WHEREABOUTS: CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER

NCONSISTENCIES IN TESTIMONY GATHERED N JANUARY AND FEBRUARY AND LATER BY TWO CONOFFS TO ARRANT FURTHER INVESTIGATION. IT IS UNCLEAR WHO OUND THE BACKPACK (CARABINEROS OR A LOCAL FARMER/ RAPPER NAMED ALADINO CONTRERAS); WHERE WAS IT FOUND IN THE RIVER OR ON THE BANK); THE CONDITION OF THE ACKPACK (WET OR DRY); AND WHETHER THERE WERE IN FACT OOTPRINTS AT THE SITE WHERE WEISFEILER ALLEGEDLY TTEMPTED THE RIVER CROSSING (CARABINEROS AND MARCIAL ANDOVAL, A LOCAL FARMER WHO OPERATES THE CABLE CAR RIDGE OVER THE LOS SAUCES RIVER, CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN HEM ON JANUARY 4 BUT CHECO LOPEZ REPORTED THAT HE IDN'T). IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT FOUR OF THE FIVE ARABINEROS STATIONED AT EL ROBLE WERE TRANSFERRED TO THER POSTS IN THE REGION IN APRIL. THE FOURTH WAS RANSFERRED IN JUNE AND RETIRED IN AUGUST. (THE ONSULATE HAS THE NAMES AND PRESENT LOCATION OF ALL IVE.) MOREOVER, WEISFEILER'S HEAVY HIKING BOOTS, HIS THER SHOES, AND HIS TWO PAIRS OF PANTS WERE ALL ECOVERED. THE BOOTS WERE ADMIRED BY CHECO LOPEZ AND

THE PROPERTY.

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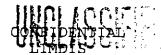
OULD BE PRIZED BY LOCAL FARMERS WHO WORK IN EXTREMELY IFFICULT TERRAIN. IN CONTRAST, WEISFEILER'S STRIPED HIRT, HIS PASSPORT AND A SMALL AMOUNT OF US MONEY THE ONLY MISSING ITEMS, ALL USELESS TO THE LOCAL OPULACE.

EMBASSY SEES THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS FOR FURTHER ION:

EMBASSY COULD ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND/OR ABINEROS TO RENEW THEIR INVESTIGATION. HOWEVER, ESS WE SHARED WITH THEM STATEMENTS, CH WOULD BREAK A CONFIDENCE AND POSSIBLY PLACE HIS E IN DANGER, THERE IS LITTLE WE COULD SAY WHICH LD IMPEL THEM TO REOPEN THE CASE. DEPARTMENT COULD INFORM WEISFEILER'S FRIENDS OF T WE HAVE LEARNED, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THEIR

colling ASSIFIED





PPARENTLY CONTINUING INVESTIGATION. AND SUGGEST THEY

IGHT WISH TO FILE A FORMAL REQUEST.

FOR A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION.

- ASSUMING OUR ATTORNEY TELLS US IT IS FEASIBLE AND

HE DEPARTMENT CONCURS. EMBASSY ITSELF COULD MAKE A

DRMAL REQUEST

REOPEN THE INVESTIGATION. THE

POINTMENT OF A SPECIAL INVESTIGATING JUDGE (MINISTRO)

). ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS.
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I VISITA) IS ONE POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL LOOK INTO.

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